

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING** held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 30 November 2009 at 7.00pm.

**PRESENT**

Councillors P C H Rendle (Chairman)  
C A Dennis (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors R M Lawrence  
R A Mann  
D Nebesnuick  
J Ruhrmund

Also in attendance: Councillor J H Dixon.

**30. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – were received from

Councillor F Granger.

Absent without apologies: Councillors R Lewarne, M Lovegrove, J Moreland, H Worth.

**31. REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVE OF PENZANCE POLICE STATION**

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Andy Crawford, representing Inspector Mark Eccles who had sent his apologies.

The Town Clerk reminded members that the Town Council had recently raised two issues with the Police Force and Sergeant Crawford addressed these issues in turn.

(a) Custody suite in Penzance

The Town Council had written twice to the Chief Inspector requesting a custody suite in Penzance to deal with the increase in crime incidents. However, Sergeant Crawford confirmed that it would not be possible to comply with this request due to the lack of facilities available at Penzance Police Station and the requirement for an independent body of staff to look after the needs of detainees. The main custody suite that serves the Penzance area is based in Camborne with further facilities in Newquay and Launceston. Sergeant Crawford informed members that a system was in place in Truro Police Station whereby non-violent or dangerous prisoners were 'processed' at the station and then released rather than transporting them to Camborne and Sergeant Mark Sayers, who had recently been assigned to Penzance as the town sergeant, was hoping to implement a similar system in Penzance in order to minimise the amount of time officers were off the street after making an arrest.

(b) Seating area at the Tourist Information Centre

The police recognised that there was an issue with vagrants using the seating area outside the Tourist Information Centre as a congregation area for drinking, sleeping etc. and that this was, at times, very intimidating for other residents and visitors to the town. It was felt that the proximity of a 'soup kitchen' to the area aggravated the situation and the police would be asking the organisers to move the kitchen further away. There had been a suggestion that the seats could be removed but some felt this would penalise legitimate users and only displace the problem. Concerns were also raised over the number of young people in the same area on Friday nights (attending the 'under 16' event at Club 2K) and that this could potentially lead to conflict between the two groups. Sergeant Crawford assured members that the youngsters attending Club 2K were carefully monitored and checked for alcohol and drugs and earlier in the year many were taken home to their parents.

(c) Policing of the town centre over the Christmas period

Members were informed that half of the Penzance police team would be working Christmas Eve and the other half working New Year's Eve with a minimum of 8 officers of the neighbourhood beat team on the street until 3am. The street safe initiative would also be highly visible.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant Crawford for his attendance and report and he left the meeting.

**32. PRESENTATION BY MR JOHN LAMBOURN – 'THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY REFORM'**

The Chairman welcomed John Lambourn who distributed to members a 'Discussion Paper – Achieving sustainable fisheries through CFP reform' produced by Defra and the Penzance MCTi's response to the paper. The Defra discussion paper had arisen out of a 'Green Paper' report on the Common Fisheries Policy produced by the European Commission. This was a lengthy document for which the deadline for responses was 31 December 2009 and Mr Lambourn would be compiling and submitting a response on behalf of the MCTi. Both papers addressed the urgent need to keep fishing sustainable for all the community and looked at ways in which this could be achieved.

Mr Lambourn hoped to engage the support of the Town Council in maintaining the sustainability of the fishing industry in Newlyn and in linking this with the local community. He also felt it was important to ensure that fish caught locally were also landed locally and not transported abroad. The social, economic and environmental issues surrounding the fishing industry were all areas that needed to be addressed.

Following discussion of Mr Lambourn's report it was

**RECOMMENDED** - that the Town Clerk should write to all the MEPs for the local area stressing the Town Council's interest in this issue and requesting regular

updates on all actions undertaken to maintain the sustainability of the fishing industry and fish stock given the importance of the industry to the area.

The Chairman thanked Mr Lambourn for his presentation and he left the meeting.

**33. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Mann and Ruhmund declared a personal interest in Minute 35 (c) Licensing application by the Farmers' Market, as founder members of the organising committee.

**34. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 NOVEMBER 2009**

Having been circulated, it was

**RESOLVED** - that the Chairman sign the Minutes as a true and correct record.

**35. REPORTS FOR DECISION**

(a) Town Flag

The Town Clerk reminded members that the Town Flag was stolen several years ago and Councillor Dixon had now raised the proposal that this should be replaced. Councillor Rendle produced a photograph of the flag which depicts the central shield of the town crest in a square format. The Town Clerk suggested that a town 'standard' could also be commissioned which could be carried by the Mayor's cadet during civic parades and research into companies producing such flags and banners had already been started. Councillor Ruhmund asked if a larger and better quality St Piran flag could also be purchased and it was

**RECOMMENDED** - that the design and size of the flag be reviewed and quotes for a flag, a standard and a St Piran flag be obtained from a few companies for comparison purposes.

(b) West Penwith Community Bus

Correspondence had been received from the West Penwith Community Bus Association that provides bus transport for people living in rural areas, e.g. students attending Penwith College or requiring a connection to Truro or Camborne Colleges, adults going to and from work, trips for the elderly, shopping trips and 'dial a ride' service. The organisation was contacting organisations in the Penzance area to ascertain if there is a need for a Community Bus Service and a questionnaire was included for organisations who expressed an interest.

The following item had arrived after the agenda had been issued but was included due to a consultation deadline.

(c) **Street trading application for Penzance Farmers' Market**

The Town Clerk reminded members that an application by the Farmers' Market to sell locally produced bottled beers, ciders, wines and spirits, the Town Council had previously responded with a recommendation that it be trialled for a six month period. The original application had been turned down due to the lack of a representative at the meeting and a further application had now been submitted. The Town Council was therefore being asked to confirm whether it stands by its original consultation response and it was

**RESOLVED** - that the original response would stand.

**36. BUDGET REVISION 2009/2010 AND PROPOSED BUDGET 2010/2011**

The Town Clerk requested input from members with regard to the proposed budget for the financial year 2010/2011 and it was

**RECOMMENDED** - that an informal meeting be held early in the New Year for Councillors to submit, discuss and agree upon priority items that they would like to see addressed by the Town Council. This would be an opportunity to set the short, medium and long-term goals of the Council over the next three years.

**37. ITEMS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- Invite a representative of Penzance Police to report on policing efforts in the town over the Christmas period
- Tesco roundabout, the gateway to Penzance and brown tourist signs - it was agreed that these issues would initially be taken to the next Town and Parish Forum meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Chairman  
18 January 2010